

REMARKS

This Amendment and Response to Non-Final Office Action is being submitted in response to the non-final Office Action mailed August 23, 2005. Claims 1-7 and 19-26 are pending in the Application according to Examiner (although Claims 1-7 and 10-26 currently stand rejected or objected to, and Claims 8 and 9 have been previously canceled). Claims 11, 12, 22, 23, and 25 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicants regard as the invention. Claims 1-3, 6, 7, 10-14, and 17-25 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Miller et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,674,114) in view of Moulin (U.S. Patent No. 5,038,524). Finally, Claim 26 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Miller et al. as modified by Moulin as applied to the claims above, and further in view of Cote et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,593,537). Examiner indicates that Claims 4, 5, 15, and 16, which currently stand objected to, would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Counsel for Applicants, being newly appointed (with a new Power of Attorney having been recently submitted), is unclear as to why Claims 10-26, having been allowed in Examiner's non-final Office Action mailed September 13, 2002, currently stand rejected (Claims 1-3 and 8 having been rejected at that time, Claims 4-7 and 9 having been objected to at that time, and Claims 8 and 9 having been subsequently canceled), understanding that this allowance may have been withdrawn based upon one or more subsequently-found references. Counsel for Applicants is also unclear as to why Examiner indicates that Claims 1-7 and 19-26 are pending in the Application when Claims 1-7 and 10-26 currently stand rejected or objected to. Thus, Counsel for Applicants assumes herein that Claims 1-7 and 10-26 are pending in the Application (Claims 8 and 9 having been previously canceled), and respectfully requests that

Examiner notify Counsel for Applicants if this assumption is incorrect at Examiner's earliest convenience. Counsel for Applicants will expeditiously remedy any such error.

Accordingly, in response to the above rejections, Claims 1, 10, 11, 12, 21-23, 25, and 26 have now been amended to further clarify the subject matter which Applicants regard as the invention and Claims 3-5 and 14-16 have now been canceled. These amendments are fully supported in the Specification, Drawings, and Claims of the Application and no new matter has been added. Based upon the amendments, reconsideration of the Application is respectfully requested in view of the following remarks.

Rejection of Claims 11, 12, 22, 23, and 25 Under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph:

Claims 11, 12, 22, 23, and 25 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicants regard as the invention. Specifically, Examiner states that it is unclear as to what the segments of each segment pair or group of segments are, and suggests that each segment pair or group of segments is made up of connectors.

In response to this rejection, the segments of each segment pair or group of segments have been replaced with fiber optic cable connectors or groups of fiber optic cable connectors, or defined as segments holding fiber optic cable connectors or groups of fiber optic cable connectors, as appropriate.

Therefore, Applicants submit that the rejection of Claims 11, 12, 22, 23, and 25 under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicants regard as the invention has now been overcome and respectfully request that this rejection be withdrawn.

Rejection of Claims 1-3, 6, 7, 10-14, and 17-25 Under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) – Miller et al. and Moulin:

Claims 1-3, 6, 7, 10-14, and 17-25 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Miller et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,674,114) in view of Moulin (U.S. Patent No. 5,038,524).

In response to this rejection, independent Claims 1 and 10 have been amended to recite the elements/limitations of objected to, but otherwise allowable, dependent Claims 4, 5, 15, and 16.

Accordingly, Applicants submit that independent Claims 1 and 10, and pending dependent Claims 1, 2, 6, 7, 10-13, and 17-20, are now allowable and respectfully request such action.

In response to the above rejection, independent Claim 21 has been amended to recite:

21. A polishing fixture assembly for a fiber optic cable connector polishing apparatus, comprising:

a plurality of segments, said segments being arranged into a plurality of groups including a first group and a second group, wherein the first group of said segments holds a plurality of a first type of fiber optic cable connectors, and the second group of said segments holds a plurality of a second type of fiber optic cable connectors, a portion of each different type of fiber optic cable connector extending below its corresponding segment; and

a hub interconnecting with each of said plurality of segments,

wherein at least one of said plurality of segments has a first opening provided therein for receiving and holding a first predetermined fiber optic cable connector parallel to a plane perpendicular to said hub,
and

wherein at least one of said plurality of segments has a second opening provided therein for receiving and holding a second

predetermined fiber optic cable connector at a predetermined angle relative to said plane perpendicular to said hub.

Neither Miller et al., Moulin, Cote et al., nor any other reference cited by Examiner teach or suggest incorporating both a first opening for receiving and holding a first predetermined fiber optic cable connector parallel to a plane perpendicular to a hub and a second opening for receiving and holding a second predetermined fiber optic cable connector at a predetermined angle relative to the plane perpendicular to the hub.

Therefore, Applicants submit that the rejection of independent Claim 21, as well pending dependent Claims 22-25, under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Miller et al. in view of Moulin has now been overcome and respectfully request that this rejection be withdrawn and the claims be allowed.

Rejection of Claim 26 Under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) – Miller et al., Moulin, and Cote et al.:

Claim 26 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Miller et al. as modified by Moulin as applied to the claims above, and further in view of Cote et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,593,537).

In response to this rejection, independent Claim 26 has been amended to recite:

26. A fiber optic cable connector polishing apparatus, comprising:
a polishing fixture assembly having a plurality of segments holding a plurality of different types of fiber optic cable connectors, a portion of each different type of fiber optic cable connector extending below its corresponding segment, said polishing fixture assembly further having a hub interconnecting with each of the plurality of segments; and
a polishing pad assembly having a plurality of wedges, each wedge aligning with a corresponding fiber optic cable connector held in the polishing fixture assembly, said polishing pad assembly further having a base interconnecting with each of the plurality of wedges,
wherein at least two of said wedges have differing heights relative to each other.

Neither Miller et al., Moulin, Cote et al., nor any other reference cited by Examiner teach or suggest incorporating a plurality of wedges, wherein at least two of the wedges have differing heights relative to each other.

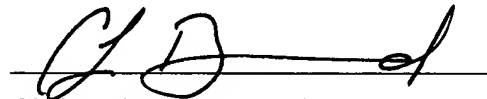
Therefore, Applicants submit that the rejection of independent Claim 26 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Miller et al. as modified by Moulin as applied to the claims above, and further in view of Cote et al., has now been overcome and respectfully request that this rejection be withdrawn and the claim be allowed.

CONCLUSION

Applicants would like to thank Examiner for the attention and consideration accorded the present Application. Should Examiner determine that any further action is necessary to place the Application in condition for allowance, Examiner is encouraged to contact undersigned Counsel at the telephone number, facsimile number, address, or email address provided below. It is not believed that any fees for additional claims, extensions of time, or the like are required beyond those that may otherwise be indicated in the documents accompanying this paper. However, if such additional fees are required, Examiner is encouraged to notify undersigned Counsel at Examiner's earliest convenience.

Respectfully submitted,

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